

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

CONTINUING NATIONAL EMERGENCY RELATING TO CUBA AND REGULATION, ANCHORAGE AND MOVEMENT OF VESSELS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 108-42)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to the Government of Cuba's destruction of two unarmed U.S.-registered civilian aircraft in international airspace north of Cuba on February 24, 1996, is to continue in effect beyond March 1, 2003, to the Federal Register for publication.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 27, 2003.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Small Business:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 27, 2003.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

MR. SPEAKER: Effective February 27, 2003, I hereby take a leave of absence from my position on the House Small Business Committee due to my appointment to the Committee on House Administration.

Sincerely,

ROBERT BRADY,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 1-minute speeches.

HONORING G. FRANKLIN CRUMPLER, HOKE COUNTY CORONER

(Mr. HAYES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the accomplishments of G. Franklin Crumpler, coroner for Hoke County, North Carolina. Mr. Crumpler holds the distinction of being the longest-serving elected official in North Carolina.

In 1960, G. Franklin Crumpler was appointed coroner for Hoke County after the serving coroner moved away. He served the unexpired term for 3 years and then ran for the office to which he was elected and has served in this capacity consecutively for the past 42 years.

He is married to the former Dayne Capps and has two sons, a daughter, and 11 grandchildren. Frank and his wife moved to Raeford in April of 1960 and opened a funeral home. Since then they have purchased a funeral home in Red Springs, North Carolina, and are part owners of LaFayette Funeral Home in Fayetteville.

Frank was born in nearby Sampson County in 1934 to the late Margaret Bradshaw and Gordon Crumpler. Frank graduated from Clinton High School in Clinton, North Carolina; Cincinnati College of Embalming; and Missouri Auction School in Kansas City, Missouri. He is a funeral service licensee, an auctioneer, and sells insurance.

He is a member and lifetime deacon of Raeford Baptist Church, past president and lieutenant governor of Raeford Kiwanis Club of which he was awarded "Man of the Year." He is on the board of directors of Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce and past president of Red Springs Chamber of Commerce. He is also a mason and a Shriner.

Please join me in expressing the appreciation of the House to Mr. G. Franklin Crumpler for over 4 decades of dedicated service to the citizens of Hoke County, North Carolina.

□ 1745

AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE AGAINST IRAQ RESOLUTION

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks and include therein extraneous material.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, \$100 billion, thousands of innocent lives of Iraqi women and children and the lives of our United States military and other military, I do not consider that to be collateral damage. Mr. Speaker, I believe it is imperative that this Congress engage in a debate that is being asked of the United Nations Security Council.

So today I am asking the Speaker to bring to the floor for our debate H. Con. Res. 2, a simple resolution that simply allows us to re-debate the Iraqi war resolution in light of the information regarding North Korea, in light of the information and question as to whether or not the United States is under imminent danger of attack, in light of the question being raised whether the United States should engage in a preemptive unilateral attack against Iraq, and in light of the fact that the Constitution does say that it is the United States Congress under Article I, section 8 that should declare war, but most importantly, Mr. Speaker, in order to save lives.

It is imperative for this Congress to stand up and be heard and be counted and not to abdicate its duty to save lives on behalf of the American people and on behalf of world peace.

I include this letter for the RECORD.

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 27, 2003.

The Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: We are writing to request floor consideration for H. Con. Res. 2, which expresses the sense of Congress that the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 be repealed. I introduced this legislation on January 7, 2003 to bring renewed debate and to re-examine the decision to authorize force against Iraq.

Since the passage of Public Law 107-243, which authorizes the President to use force against Iraq, the world is a different place. We have a dire situation in North Korea and our policies dealing with nations accused of having weapons of mass destruction should be consistent. In addition, many of our long-time allies are advocating that the U.N. inspections should be given more time to continue their work in Iraq. If the President intends to seek a new resolution in the United Nations, thereby allowing the U.N. Security Council to re-debate the question of force against Iraq, then it is more than reasonable for Congress to re-examine its decision based upon all the information available now, so as not to abdicate its constitutional duty.

Congress is constitutionally obligated to debate and to vote on any decision to go to war. Article I, 8 of the U.S. Constitution vests the authority to declare war solely with Congress. We are calling for a vigorous debate before we launch a probable preemptive unilateral strike against Iraq. It is Congress that must ultimately decide to go to war.

We would like to request that H. Con. Res. 2 be brought to the floor for debate. Before the President uses force against Iraq, approval and considered debate should occur in the Congress.

Sincerely,

Sheila Jackson-Lee, Diane E. Watson,
John Conyers, Jr., Raúl M. Grijalva,
Danny K. Davis, Jim McDermott, Bob Filner, Bert Saunders, José E. Serrano,

Carolyn C. Kilpatrick, Frank W. Ballance, Jr., Bobby Scott, Lynn C. Woolsey, Pete Stark, Maurice D. Hinchey, Hilda L. Solis.

MOVING EXPENSES FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, the Associated Press has now reported that the Federal Government has paid out over \$100,000 each in moving expenses to hundreds of Federal employees.

Investigators found 388 moves that cost taxpayers over \$100,000 each. One FBI employee got \$203,000, and three IRS workers got over \$190,000 each for their moves. In addition to these hundreds of moves that have already been paid for, 81 other Federal employees have been authorized to receive over \$100,000 each for their moves.

Mr. Speaker, this is ridiculous. It is excessive. It is a rip-off of the taxpayers, and Congress should stop it. Federal employment used to be called government service. However, it is anything but public service when employees seem to care less and less about what a move costs as long as it does not come out of their own pockets.

CONGRESSIONAL BICYCLE CAUCUS

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I would hope that as we are dealing with some weighty matters here before us that we also may be able to pause for a moment and deal with one simple little item that can help bring us together. We are in the midst now of encouraging Members to renew their membership in the bipartisan Bicycle Caucus.

The gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY) and I have issued a letter that is circulating to the Members. Last year, we had over a hundred Members, representing 37 States, that worked to help promote cycling policies around the country, to do work here in Washington, D.C., to promote that opportunity to make the cycling-friendly environment and to have some positive experiences for Members, family, and staff using cycles here.

Next week, there will be a bicycle summit with participation from virtually every State in the Union, over 500 people. We encourage Members to renew their membership. They will get the certified bicycle membership pen, and we will have an opportunity to work together on something that we will enjoy that will be good for the environment, good for health, and good for our country.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank my colleagues and the American people for supporting our men and women who have volunteered to stand in harm's way. While no one desires to go to war, the threat to America posed by Iraq and international terrorism is real, and many of those in the Armed Forces may be asked to make the ultimate sacrifice.

I am especially appreciative of our servicemembers because I recently served on a delegation led by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) to visit the courageous troops in Kuwait, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Already nearly 170,000 members of the National Guard and Reserves have been called up for deployment. These brave people have volunteered to leave their jobs and families to help secure our liberty.

Many of our military families struggle to make ends meet, and I ask Americans to reach out to them. Every helping hand is greatly appreciated, even if just a word of encouragement. I ask everyone across this great land to support our troops by assisting their families while they are defending freedom.

DIVIDEND TAX CUT

(Mr. BEAUPREZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, in coming days and weeks, this body will take up issues of economic growth and taxation fairness. The President has suggested the elimination of the tax on dividends, a tax paid of course by investors, half of which I am told are senior citizens, treated as ordinary income.

This tax is rightly referred to as a double tax because companies that pay dividends have already been subjected to a corporate income tax. Thus 60 percent or more of every dollar of business profit, when taxed both at the corporate and personal level, could end up in the Federal tax bucket.

This seems excessive. It seems unfair. It seems a penalty on success. This is clearly a disincentive to capital investment which is critical, of course, to job creation; capital investment, which declined for eight consecutive quarters of our battered economy.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain every Member of this body is committed to more job availability for Americans, especially now. Elimination of the dividend tax would be an incentive for capital investment which is necessary for job creation.

Let us do American workers a favor and eliminate the dividend tax now.

JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH PACKAGE

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the President's jobs and economic growth package because of the immediate benefits that it will provide for our small business owners.

Under current law, businesses can only deduct a fraction of new investment expenses and are forced to wait years to deduct the full cost. The President's jobs and economic growth package will help reduce this anti-investment bias by immediately increasing the amount of investment that can be deducted from \$25,000 to \$75,000 per year. Increasing by 300 percent the amount that small businesses can invest in their company will have an immediate and positive impact on our Nation's economy. This package is projected to return an average of \$2,042 to over 23 million small business owners this year.

This legislation will help increase the bottom line, and I hope my colleagues will support it when it comes before the House.

SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL GUARDSMEN AND RESERVES

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, as our Nation mobilizes in every way, and most especially our military, to confront the war on terror, as our soldiers in numbers exceeding 150,000 prepare in a theater overseas for possible confrontation, a brief word about the citizen-soldier and their role, National Guardsmen and Reserves in this effort, fully 60,000 of which have not only been activated but deployed to that theater overseas.

This week, the historic base, Camp Atterbury in my own district, became the very first State-owned National Guard facility to be activated as a mobilization site in the war on terror. My congratulations to Governor Frank O'Bannon and the Indiana Army National Guard and the 38th Division for their stewardship of this facility, and it is all of our hope and prayer that the men who pass through that place through mobilization go with God and go prepared and come home to their families and their grateful communities soon.

PRESIDENT BUSH'S ECONOMIC PLAN

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, Ronald Reagan once said that the best thing that the government can do to stimulate the economy is get out of the way, and I agree completely. President Bush's economic growth and jobs creation plan is a perfect blueprint for